

Message Text

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42

ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 EUR-12 /039 W

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R 031350Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1643

UNCLAS CAIRO 4411

FOR FRANK C. RONAHAH, DIRECTOR, EUROPEAN BRANCH,
USGAO FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AGAO, EG

SUBJECT: GAO VISIT

REF: FRANKFURT 2485

PENSIONS ARE BOOKED UP WEEKS AND MONTHS IN ADVANCE.
SHOULD BETTER ACCOMMODATIONS BECOME AVAILABLE
BECAUSE OF CANCELLATIONS, WE WILL MAKE SWITCH.

3. I AM PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO SPEAK TO SCHMIDT
AND BREW ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF THEIR MISSION. I
FULLY SHARE THE OBJECTIVE OF USING AMERICAN AIR
CARRIERS TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, BUT AM
CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT STRIKES ME AS TOTALLY
INDISCRIMINATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS REQUIREMENT
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT REPEATEDLY SUBJECTS OFFICIAL
TRAVELLERS TO SUCH CHRONIC DELAY CENTERS AS
THE ROME AIRPORT. I, PERSONALLY, HAVE TRAVELLED
BACK AND FORTH TO WASHINGTON A DOZEN TIMES OR
MORE IN PAST YEAR ON URGENT AND SENSITIVE OFFICIAL
BUSINESS. WERE I TALLY THE WASTED HOURS SPENT
WAITING AT ROME AIRPORT BECAUSE OF STRIKES,
DELAYS, ETC., THEY WOULD COME TO MANY DAYS. SOME
RATIONALITY NEEDS BE INJECTED INTO IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE ACT SO THAT OFFICIAL TRAVELLERS ON URGENT
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BUSINESS ARE NOT SUBJECTED TO UNNECESSARY HARDSHIPS

BY TRYING TO COMPLY. CONTRARY TO FREQUENT
STATEMENTS I HAVE SEEN THAT THE INCONVENIENCE
TO THE TRAVELLER IS NOT A FACTOR, IT IS OR SHOULD
BE IN TERMS OF EFFICIENCY, HEALTH AND OPTIMIZING
WHAT IS OFTEN LIMITED TIME. OFFICIAL TRAVELLERS
SHOULD NOT BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST AND SHOULD
HAVE SAME TRAVEL OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THEM AS
PRIVATE AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TO TRAVEL BY FASTEST AND
MOST EFFICIENT MEANS.
EILTS

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